

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed April 18, 2003, the Examiner noted that claims 1-12 were pending, objected to claims 7, 9 and 10 and rejected claims 1-6, 8, 11 and 12. Claims 1, 7 and 9-12 have been amended, claim 2 has been canceled, new claims 13 and 14 have been added and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1 and 3-14 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections and objections are traversed below.

In the Action on page 2 the Examiner objected to the drawings and required that proposed drawing changes be submitted for approval. The drawings have been proposed for amendment in consideration of the Examiner's comments in a concurrently filed Letter To The Examiner requesting approval of the changes to the drawings. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

In the Office Action the Examiner objected to claims 7, 9 and 10 and indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. These claims have been so rewritten and it is submitted that these claims are now allowable. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Page 2 of the Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 8, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Eick and Hayashi.

Eick is directed to a system that determines the relationship between nodes in a graph and determines information about the nodes, such as size, in a system that provides information via a display of a network of nodes. The information and relationships are conveyed by colors.

Hayashi is directed to a system that numerically analyzes a graph or a table and assigns colors based on the numeric values.

In contrast, the present invention compares an input source to specified "character strings" and assigns ("assigning") colors to the character strings based on the comparison, where the comparing can include "scanning" the input source for the character strings. The comparison can determine the "frequency of occurrence" of the character strings. The invention outputs ("outputting") the color assignments, which can include "displaying" the input source with character strings noted by the assigned frequency of occurrence colors (see claims 1 and 11-13). The assigning of the colors can include scanning the input source to determine common character strings within the input source (see claims 3-5 and 14) or can be assigned by

the user (claim 6).

The prior art of Eick and Hayashi, either alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest the inventor as recited in the claims.

It is submitted that the invention of the claims distinguishes over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

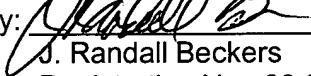
It is also submitted that claims 7, 9 and 10 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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